

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01

AID-05 /062 W

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R 070002Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 950

INFO CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJECT: BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT ELECTIONS PROMISED

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 6 THAT PRIME MINISTER SOMARE IN PRERECORDED BROADCAST TO PEOPLE OF BOUGAINVILLE HAS PROMISED ELECTIONS WOULD SOON BE HELD THERE FOR "CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED" BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY. NO DATE WAS GIVEN. HE ASSERTED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVT. WOULD HELP A BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT., AND THAT YET OTHER PROVINCIAL GOVTS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

2. COMMENT: IN JULY 1974 THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY PASSED THE INTERIM BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT ACT WHICH CREATED A BOUGAINVILLE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY NAMING SOME TWENTY PRESIDENTS OF VILLAGE GOVERNMENT COUNCILS ON BOUGAINVILLE AS MEMBERS OF THE BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT ASSEMBLY. ELECTIONS WERE TO BE HELD BY DECEMBER 1974, BUT WERE DEFERRED IN ORDER TO REDRAW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS, AND LATER BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF COOPERATION FROM THE INTERIM BPG LEADERSHIP. AT THACHEIGHT OF THE BPG CENTRAL GOVT DISPUTE THE CENTRAL GOVT STATED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERIM BPG LACKED LEGITIMACY BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN

ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE. THE CENTRAL GOVT HOWEVER DID NOT MANIFEST GREAT INTEREST IN GIVING IT SUCH STATUS BY HOLDING ELECTIONS BEFORE PNG ITSELF OBTAINED INDEPENDENCE. NOW THAT THE BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY THE RESIGNATION AND REPLACEMENT OF DR. ALEXIS SAREI, AND SINCE THE SECESSIONIST LEADERS HAVE NOT MADE GOOD THEIR UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE CENTRAL GOVT MAY FEEL THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO APPEAL TO THE BOUGAINVILLE PEOPLE.

3. IF THE GPNG IS PROMOTING THE ELECTION IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WILL ENHANCE ITS POSITION THERE, IT IS DOING SO BASED ON INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO US AT THIS TIME. OUR GUESS IS THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE SECESSIONISTS BY GIVING LEGITIMACY TO A BPG ASSEMBLY OF MUCH THE SAME POLITICAL ATTITUDE THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS.

4. LOCAL MEDIA REP CONSIDERS ANNOUNCEMENT WINDOW DRESSING IN LIGHT OF SOMARE'S VISIT TO SOLOMONS. CONSIDERS ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE SOON HELD BUT ANNOUNCEMENT GIVES SOMARE REBUTTAL TO POSSIBLE ALLEGATION BOUGAINVILLE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DENIED VOICE IN CURRENT SETUP. OLMSTED

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, BOUGAINVILLE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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